

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment conforms the claim dependencies of the above-referenced patent application to U.S. practice. The Examiner is requested to enter the foregoing amendments prior to examining the application.

Enclosed is a certified copy of the following application for which a claim of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 has been made:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Filed</u>
Great Britain	GB9819764.3	10 September 1998

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the below date.

Date:

5/24/01



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE MAY 24, 2001

In the Specification:

On page 1, immediately after the title, the specification has been amended as follows:

RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is the U.S. national phase of PCT/EP99/07720, filed September 10, 1999, which claims benefit of priority from British Patent Application No. GB9819764.3, filed on September 10, 1998, the benefit of priority of which applications is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and 120.

On page 8, lines 1-2 have been amended as follows:

1. 5'-CAACCAAGACTACAAGTACCGCGTCAGTGA-3' (SEQ ID NO:1) and/or
2. 5'GCAACTCCTCATGGCTGAGGTCTC-3' (SEQ ID NO:2)

In the Claims

4. (Amended) A method of determining susceptibility to heart disease according to [claims 1 to 3] Claim 1, 2 or 3, said method comprising determining the copy number of the B/b, A/a or T/t alleles or haplotype of the vitamin D receptor.

5. (Amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding claims] Claim 1 further comprising determining whether the allele(s) present is/are associated with risk of heart disease.

7. (Amended) A method according to [any one of the previous claims] Claim 1 wherein said method further comprises determining aspects of calcium metabolism in a subject.

9. (Amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding claims] Claim 1, wherein said method is performed *in vitro*.

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11. (Amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding claims] Claim 1 wherein the subject is a mammal.

13. (Amended) A method according to claim[s] 11 or Claim 12 wherein the subject is male.

14. (Amended) A method according to [any one of the previous claims] Claim 1 for determining susceptibility of a subject to atrial or ventricular hypertrophy, aortic calcification, myocardial infarction, or hypertension.

15. (Amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding claims] Claim 1 further comprising treating the subject to reduce the risk of heart disease.

16. (Amended) A method according to claim 15 wherein [suitable] said treatment[s may include] is selected from the group of treatments consisting of modifications to lifestyle, regular exercise, changes in diet [or] and pharmaceutical preparations.

18. (Amended) A method according to claim 17 wherein said subject is first diagnosed as being susceptible to heart disease in accordance with [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 16].

19. (Amended) A method according to claims 17 or 18 further comprising administering the appropriate treatment to the subject.

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